



PROUD
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PROGRESSIVE
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November 22, 2004

Attn: Mr Kenneth Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, D. C. 20423

Dear Mr Blodgett:

Re: "Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement" Tongue River Railroad STB
Finance Docket No. 30186 (Sub - No. 3)

The Miles City Area Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the conclusions of the above referenced Environmental Impact Statement on the Western Alignment to the whole project both from environmental concerns and from rail use concerns. The remediation improvements should set will with the impacted property owners of the Tongue River Valley as they only improve upon the existing approved applications.

The timely completion of the proposed Tongue River Railroad and the development of the Otter Creek Coal Tracts can create an "economic boom" in southeastern Montana that will be felt across the state and throughout our school systems. Coal sales and power generation create many well-paying jobs, provide significant new tax base and should at least stabilize, if not improve upon, our eroding population base. The completion of the Tongue River Railroad opens the doors to this potential development bonanza.

Again, our organization strongly endorses this amendment to the existing environmental impact statements. We thank you for the opportunity to comment upon this action.

Sincerely,

Linda Wolff
Miles City Area Chamber of Commerce
Executive Director